



National Scholarship Program: Information & Guidelines

The National Scholarship Program aims to assist individuals employed in the fundraising and not-for-profit sectors in attending educational events in order to develop and improve their knowledge and skills. Scholarships up to a value of \$1,000 will be awarded to successful applicants to cover registration, travel (excluding food expenses) and/or tuition fees.

Examples of programs that can be funded through the National Scholarship Program include, but are not limited to: AFP Congress, CFRE Refresher Course, AFP Fundamentals of Fundraising, AFP International Conference, local AFP chapter workshops, and post-secondary tuition costs.

All candidates must be employed by a registered Canadian charity or non-profit organization, and cannot have received a national scholarship from the AFP Foundation for Philanthropy – Canada within the last three years (from date of acceptance).

Applications will be assessed twice annually. In 2020, application deadlines are March 15 and September 13th at 5pm EST.

Successful applicants must submit an expense report and impact report for the event/program attended. They will be issued 50% of the granted funds upon the applicant's formal acceptance of the scholarship; the remainder will be issued upon receipt of an expense report and impact report.

The event/program for which funding is sought must conclude within one calendar year of the chosen application deadline. All applicants will be notified of the selection committee's decision three weeks after the deadline date.

The number and value of scholarships granted is at the discretion of the selection committee and dependent on the funding available. The value of each scholarship is determined by awarding top applicants a percentage of their requested funding correspondent to their application score out of 100. Applicants will be granted scholarships in descending order of total score until no remaining funding is available in that scholarship round. The National Scholarship Committee is comprised of a representative group of AFP Canada members who will evaluate applications based on standardized scoring criteria.

Information for Applicants

When completing your application, please remember that the committee assessing it will be most interested in your efforts as a volunteer and professional as they relate to fundraising. While the fundraising goals and impact of your organization are important, the questions contained herein are designed so that AFP can learn more about your goals, aspirations and accomplishments as a fundraising professional. Thus, as you provide information on your leadership, short and long term objectives and action plans, please keep in mind to focus on your profession. Personal goals and objectives are not suited to this application process.

National Scholarship Program: Application Guide

What is the Guide?

This guide is supplemental in nature and intended to provide applicants with insights into what information would be beneficial to the application process. The committee that reviews the applications is diverse and changes every year, but these are some basic insights into what they will be looking for in your responses.

The guidelines are focused on the sections of the application process that require in-depth responses only. Basic administrative responses are expected to be completed fully.

Key Things to Remember:

- Scholarships are awarded to applicants who demonstrate a financial need and who provide clear and compelling proof of their contributions to the non-profit sector.
- The committee is made up of professionals from across the country with a wide variety of experience and skills representing diverse the nature of the fundraising profession.
- Take the time to answer questions thoughtfully and in full detail.
- Be sure to leave yourself some time to have a friend/colleague proof your application before submitting it to the committee.
- Please refrain from mentioning the organization you work for in your application, and instead use generic description if necessary (i.e.: major hospital in Toronto, etc).

Question Guide:

Describe a particularly meaningful volunteer role you have had during the past 5 years. How has it shaped your work in the philanthropic sector?

- An important part of our role as leaders in the non-profit sector is volunteering.
- Please be sure to highlight any and all opportunities you have had to volunteer in the non-profit sector. Please note, this cannot include volunteered time at the organization you are employed at.

Describe a fundraising seminar, course, or event that you attended in the past 3 years and how you applied these learnings to improve your professional practice.

- The committee will review your professional development to date as part of the overall “picture” of the applicant;
- Remember to list as much information about the course as possible when applying.

What are three fundraising related highlights of your career?

- Please answer the question in full sentences;
- A highlight would be considered something that you want to emphasize to the committee as important to your career development;

What challenges have you faced in your fundraising career and how have you overcome them?

- Examples of challenges: broad sector related obstacles (government cut backs, demographic changes, etc), working with boards/volunteers, budget constraints, career path set-backs, event planning challenges;
- Everyone’s level of work-experience is different but the key in this section is to demonstrate what has been learned through these experiences.

What are your personal career objectives/professional development goals?

- Be sure to take the time to write a clear and comprehensive answer that will ensure the committee understands your goals and objectives;
- This is where the committee is looking for a clear link between the course/conference/class that you have applied for and your overall professional development goals;

How will this course be useful to achieve those goals?

- this is where the committee will review why you chose the particular event/course and how this relates to your overall career objectives;
- Spelling and grammar are important – please take the time to proof your answer